passengers are allotted the bays thereby removing any chance for the taxi drivers to harass the passengers. At the International terminal, the taxis are allotted as the passenger comes with the prepaid receipt and the first passenger boards the first available taxi. Delhi Police is also taking strong action against touts operating at IGI Airport. In the year 2009, so far 122 touts have been apprehended by the Delhi Police.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Upgradation of Rajkot Airport

2781. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) is to acquire land from railways authority for the purpose of upgradation of Rajkot Airport;

(b) if so, whether the railways authority has agreed to give land to the AAI and when will the land be transferred from railways authority; and

(c) by when AAI proposes to complete that work of upgradation of Rajkot Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested Railway Authorities for transfer of 14.7 hectares of railway land for extension of runway to upgrade Rajkot Airport.

(b) and (c) The railway authority had proposed to transfer the requested land to AAI on lease at market rate with the condition that AAI has to rehabilitate the affected residential units at its own cost. This proposal was estimated to cost Rs. 50 crore. Keeping in view, its other financial liabilities and limited funds, AAI could not accept this proposal.

In the meantime, the State Government of Gujarat has proposed construction of a Greenfield airport at a different location.

Conditions of Air India

†2782. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the critical conditions prevailing in Air India;

(b) the persons responsible for this condition of Air India/Indian Airlines; and

(c) whether in order to improve upon in this regard both the Airlines can be separated as was the case earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the financial condition of Air India. A GoM is monitoring the financial package/equity infusion for the airline. The reasons for losses are mainly due to low yields and load factors caused by the prevalent economic recession and the high fuel prices of 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.